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# STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

SS - 34

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## FARM MORTGAGE DEBT DECLINING

Total farm mortgage debt in U.S. at beginning of 1945 estimated 5,270 million dollars compared with 6,586 million in 1945, 7,584 million in 1935 and 9,631 million in 1930.

Among the large lenders were Federal Land Banks, which at beginning of 1945 held 1,209 million dollars of farm mortgages, compared with 2,010 million in 1940, 1,947 million in 1935 and 1,202 million in 1930. Life insurance companies held 934 million dollars of farm mortgages at beginning of 1945, compared with 984 million in 1940, 1,301 million in 1935 and 2,118 million in 1930.

## PLENTY OF FOOD GRAINS

Food grain output this year 2 million tons over previous record. Record wheat crop, estimated 1,125 million bushels, 74 million larger than any previous crop. Rice also record crop. Estimated total production of 8 major food grains 158 million tons - 2 million above last year's record and 3 million over 1942; 14 million more than any other year.

## AMPLE FEED INDICATED

Total feed supplies expected to be largest ever produced. Corn still an uncertainty; September forecast 3,069 million bushels, which together with record oats crop of nearly 1.6 billion and large sorghum and barley crops, would bring feed grain total to 121 million tons. Hay is also a near record crop. Feed grain supplies per animal unit for this season promise to be largest in 25 years.

## TRUCK CROPS LARGE

Total tonnage of commercial truck crops indicated 5 percent larger than 1945 and 26 percent above ten year average. Onions declined but fall cabbage increased during August. Green peas for processing estimated 484,000 tons, 14 percent above the record output in 1942. Sweet corn and green lima beans large crops also. Tomatoes, however, estimated 2,850,000 tons, 10 percent below 1944 record. Total tonnage of 8 major vegetable crops estimated 5,300,000 tons, which exceeds 1944 by about 4 percent.

## FRUIT BELOW AVERAGE

Total tonnage of all deciduous fruits indicated about 12 percent less than last year and 2 percent below average. Peach crop a record high while apples are record short crop. Citrus

crops for 1945-46 show favorable prospects.

## MORE CRANBERRIES

Cranberry crop forecast at 644,100 barrels, compared with 369,700 barrels last year and 10 year average (1934-43) of 631,660 barrels.

## 20% LESS SUGAR THIS YEAR

Production of U.S. sugarcane for sugar and seed indicated 6,976,000 tons, which would be 13 percent over last year.

Total sugar supplies available to U.S. in 1945 will be about 20 percent less than quantity used in 1944. Last year we consumed (civilian and military) more than 7 million tons of sugar, raw value, of which 4 million tons came from Cuba. Total consumption this year expected to be about 1 million tons less; Cuba will supply nearly one-half of the total. Sugar stocks in continental U.S. were reduced more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  million tons in 1944 - bringing stocks down to minimum working quantity.

World sugar supplies in 1945 are smallest since beginning of the war. This is largely result of short crop in Cuba and a reduction in world stocks of about 2.4 million tons in 1943 and 1944. A further reduction in world stock of about 1.2 million tons is indicated during 1945.

## HEAVY MILK OUTPUT

August milk production estimated 11.1 billion pounds, up 8 percent over August last year. With fewer cows on farms, output per cow must remain high if 1945 total is to equal last year.

Milk produced first 8 months of this year estimated 87.4 billion pounds, almost 4 billion over like period last year.

## BUTTER SUPPLIES

Butter supplies for civilians larger than in latter months of 1944, although production was off slightly in early months. Creamery butter production during June was 171 million pounds, 4 percent below previous June, being down particularly on the West Coast. Creamery butter production January through June 755 million pounds, compared with 815 million in like period last year. Production has increased in recent weeks.

Margarine production at peak figures; total for first half of 1945 was over 300 million pounds, 10 percent above like period of 1944 and about 80 percent

COMMODITY AND UNIT	PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED		
	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	JULY 15 1945	AUG. 15 1945	
Wheat, bu. . . . .	dol. 1.46	1.45	1.53
Corn, bu. . . . .	dol. 1.12	1.13	1.11
Oats, bu. . . . .	dol. .66	.59	.69
Cotton, lb. . . . .	ct. 21.25	21.33	21.45
Potatoes, bu. . . . .	dol. 1.83	1.67	1.25
Hogs, 100 lb. . . . .	dol. 14.00	14.00	12.60
Beef cattle, 100 lb. . .	dol. 12.80	12.50	9.38
Veal calves, 100 lb. . .	dol. 13.90	13.80	11.70
Lambs, 100 lb. . . . .	dol. 13.50	13.00	10.20
Butterfat, lb. . . . .	ct. 50.2	50.3	<sup>1</sup> 43.3
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. .	dol. 3.09	3.14	<sup>1</sup> 2.71
Chickens, live, 1 lb. . . .	ct. 28.5	28.6	19.7
Eggs, doz. . . . .	ct. 37.9	40.8	<sup>1</sup> 36.5

<sup>1</sup>Adjusted for seasonal variation.

over 1936-40 average. However, output in latter half of 1945 will be under last year.

#### EGGS OFF SLIGHTLY — MORE PULLETS COMING

Number eggs laid in August 3,941 million, some 2 percent under August last year but 33 percent above 10 year average (1934-43). Egg production in first 8 months this year 42,287 million eggs, 5 percent less than same period last year but 35 percent above average.

Number laying hens on hand during August 303.8 million birds, 6 percent under August last year but 19 percent above average. Number of potential layers (all hens and pullets) on farms September 1 was 598 million, about 1 percent more than year ago but 6 percent under record number on September 1, 1943.

Pullets not of laying age estimated 295 million, some 10 percent more than year ago and 13 percent above 5 year average. Of chicks hatched since June 1, number estimated September 1 was 208.7 million, about 46 percent more than year ago but 7 percent less than record high number September 1, 1943. Late hatched chicks showed large increase in all parts of country.

#### SHORT COTTON CROP

September 1 forecast of cotton crop 10,026,000 bales of 500 pounds gross weight. This is 2,204,000 bales less than grown in 1944 and 2,267,000 bales under 10 year average production (1934-43). Indicated yield 267.2 pounds of lint per acre, compared with 293.5 pounds last year a 10 year average of 231 pounds.

Abandonment of cotton in cultivation on July 1 estimated at 1.9 percent, about equal to the 10 year average, and leaves total of 18,008,000 acres for harvest. This is 10 percent less than acreage harvested in 1944 and is smaller than any year since 1885.

#### NUMBER OF FARM WORKERS

##### DOWN SLIGHTLY

Number of workers on farms September 1 was 10,907,000, about 1 percent fewer than the 11,040,000 so employed a year previous. Number of hired workers 2,813,000; compared with 2,817,000 a year ago. Number of family workers 8,094,000, compared with 8,223,000 a year ago. It thus appears that the shrinkage in number of farm workers this year under last has been in family rather than in hired labor.

The number of foreign workers on farms September 1 was as follows: Mexicans 59,157; Jamaicans 20,787; Bahamains 4,620; Newfoundlanders 1,008; prisoners of war 77,960. The largest number of prisoners of war working on farms is in California 8,012; next Arkansas 7,518; third largest Louisiana 4,301; but the prisoners are working in

virtually every state outside of New England.

#### FARM INCOME

Total farm receipts from products sold during July 1,965 million dollars compared with 1,649 million year previous. Government payments in July (included in foregoing total sales) 100 million dollars, compared with 47 million previous year. Total receipts for first 7 months, 11,114 million dollars, compared with 10,826 million in same period last year. These totals include 539 million dollars of Government payments this year, compared with 555 million last year.

#### MARKETING CHARGES DOWN SLIGHTLY

Charges for marketing family market basket of farm food products declined from \$234 in June to \$230 in July. Last figure includes about \$18 of Government payments to marketing agencies. Last year marketing charges in July were \$232, including \$12 in Government marketing payments. During last three months marketing charges have averaged about 15 percent higher than the 1935-39 prewar average.

The farmer's share of the consumer's dollar spent for farm food products has held at 54 cents through most of 1945. This is close to the record high of 55 cents in April 1918, December 1944, and January 1945.

#### LEND-LEASE MEAT

Lend-lease shipments of meat and meat products by the United States from beginning of the program in 1941 to July 1, 1945, totaled 5.7 billion pounds, product weight, or about 8 billion pounds wholesale dressed weight. During the period April-

June only 258 million pounds, product weight, were shipped. Chief recipients: United Kingdom and British Dominions, and Russia.

Tentative estimates of average meat, poultry and fish consumption in certain European countries for last war year, 1944-45, per capita: Denmark 134.5 pounds, Belgium 65.3 pounds, France 79.4 pounds, Czechoslovakia 52 pounds, Italy 22 pounds.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE		
INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	AUG. 1945
Prices received by farmers . . .	1910-14 = 100	204
Prices paid by farmers, interest and taxes . . . . .	1910-14 = 100	173
Parity ratio . . . . .	1910-14 = 100	118
Wholesale prices of food . . .	1910-14 = 100	166
Retail prices of food . . .	1910-14 = 100	<sup>1</sup> 182
Farm wage rates . . . . .	1910-14 = 100	362
Weekly factory earnings . . .	1910-14 = 100	2419
RATIOS	LONG-TIME AUG. - AVERAGE	AUG. 1945
Hog-corn ratio, U. S. . . .	11.5	12.4
Butterfat-feed ratio, U. S. .	23.3	27.3
Milk-feed ratio, U. S. . .	1.21	1.36
Egg-feed ratio, U. S. . .	12.1	14.0
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	JAN. - JULY 1944	JAN.-JULY 1945
Milk, (Bil. lb.) . . . .	73.2	76.3
Eggs, (Bil.) . . . . .	40.3	38.5
Beef, (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) .	3,679	4,019
Lamb & Mutton (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	480	531
Pork & Lard (Mil. lb.) . .	8,538	4,851
All meats (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	13,088	9,763

<sup>1</sup>June figure.

<sup>2</sup>Factory pay roll per employed worker. June figure.

For more detailed information, write the Division of Economic Information, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C., or telephone Republic 4142 - Branch 4407.